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(SMC)

October 14, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding.

On Friday, October 10, 2003, on behalf of the Alliance of Rural CMRS Carriers ("ARCC"), undersigned counsel met with Paul Garnett, Vickie Byrd, Elizabeth Yockus, and Cara Voth of the Wireline Competition Bureau to discuss the Joint Board's ongoing proceeding on universal service. The conference was joined via telephone by Greg Fogleman, Economic Analyst at the Florida Public Service Commission, and Larry Stevens, Utility Specialist at the Iowa Utilities Board.

Among the topics were: alternative methodologies for providing support; the public interest standard for designating additional ETCs in areas served by rural ILECs; the relevance of disaggregation to service area redefinition; and conditions imposed on ETCs. During the meeting, counsel presented ARCC's position on these issues consistent with its previous filings in this docket.

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If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven M. Chernoff

David A. LaFuria
Steven M. Chernoff

cc: Paul Garnett, Esq.
Vickie Byrd, Esq.
Cara Voth, Esq.
Elizabeth Yockus, Esq.
Greg Fogleman
Larry Stevens